

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 723

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO VIA POUCH

AMCONSUL QUEBEC VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC

SUBJ: COMMUNICATION FACILITIES TORONTO AND QUEBEC CITY

REF: RCO MEMO DATED JULY 16

1. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO UP GRADE THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY IN TORONTO TO A POINT WHERE IT IS COMPARABLE WITH THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION CENTER AT THE CONGEN MONTREAL AND TO ESTABLISH OFF LINE COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY AT THE CONGEN QUEBEC CITY.

2. IN REGARD TO TORONTO, EUR ALLOCATED ONE FULL TIME PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATOR POSITION IN AUGUST 1975 WITH THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OC INTENDED TO GIVE TORONTO AN ON LINE CAPABILITY. THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE CONSULATE ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AND GIVING IT COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER. UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH CONTROL HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED EVEN THOUGH OC HAS PROVIDED SOME EQUIPMENT THIS PAST JUNE. THE CONGEN'S RELIANCE ON DEA WAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED RECENTLY WHEN THAT AGENCY'S SINGLE OFFICER SHUT DOWN THE DEA EQUIPMENT FOR A THREE-WEEK PERIOD IN ORDER TO GO ON HOME LEAVE BEGINNING JULY 30.

3. PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO REORGANIZE THE OFFICE SPACE

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FOR MUCH OF THE CONSULATE IN TORONTO WHICH WILL INVOLVE

RELOCATING BOTH DEA AND THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNICATION FACILITY. THIS IS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT BOTH THE RCO AND THE RSO FEEL IT IMPERATIVE THE COMCENTER AND THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE BE SITUATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING IN ORDER TO IMPROVE RESTRICTED ACCESS AND BETTER FACILITY SECURITY FOR BOTH. ALSO, DUE TO THE FACT THAT ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY IN THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE IS TRAINED AS THE ALTERNATE COMMUNICATOR, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE COMCENTER IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MOVE, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR AN ON LINE COMMUNICATION FACILITY WHETHER OR NOT SUCH EQUIPMENT IS INSTALLED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THIS IS TO INSURE THE ALLOCATING OF AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR REARRANGING AND RELOCATING VARIOUS OFFICES IN TORONTO. IN ADDITION TO THE C&R AREA, THE RSO PLANS TO MEET WITH THE LOCAL CONTRACTOR ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, AND DISCUSS THE PROJECT. THE ONLY GUIDELINES AS TO SPACE NEEDS FOR THE COMCENTER IS A COMPARISON WITH THE NEW ON LINE FACILITY IN MONTREAL WHICH AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY 800 SQUARE FEET. OC SHOULD ADVISE THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER OR NOT THIS ESTIMATE IS REASONABLY ACCURATE FOR TORONTO'S FUTURE NEEDS.

4. IN REGARD TO QUEBEC CITY, THE EMBASSY IS WILLING TO TRAIN EITHER THE CONSUL OR THE VICE CONSUL IN COMMUNICATIONS SO THAT THERE WILL BE A QUALIFIED PERSON TO HANDLE CLASSIFIED BUT OFF LINE TRAFFIC. HOPEFULLY, THIS WILL MEET WITH OC'S APPROVAL IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY A COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY FOR THE CONGEN. THE ARCHIVES ROOM WHERE THE TELEX IS NOW LOCATED HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED AND PRESUMABLY APPROVED BY OC AS THE LOCATION FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THIS ROOM HOWEVER WILL REQUIRE A SECURE DOOR, SPECIFICATIONS OF WHICH ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE STANDARD MOSLER VAULT DOOR CAN NOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE ENTRY WAY OF THE ARCHIVES ROOM BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF OC CAN ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL APPROVE THE EMBASSY SUGGESTION TO CROSS TRAIN ONE OF THE CONSULATE OFFICERS AND, IF SO, ADVISE THE NECESSARY DOOR SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS AREA.

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5. IF POSSIBLE, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IF RCO RAMBO COULD RETURN TO CANADA AND ASSIST IN BOTH COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS. ALSO, HE MIGHT WISH TO INSPECT THE NEW FACILITY IN MONTREAL.
ENDERS

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